

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 AID-05

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 ARA-06 NEA-09 /109 W

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P R 281645Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 240

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 479

LONDON FOR ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: LOW CONFERENCE: NON-PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

REF: GENEVA 451

1. TWO ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THEY WILL NOT ATTEND THE LOW CONFERENCE: FIGI AND GAMBIA. THERE IS AN ARTICLE IN THE JAN 28 EDITION OF JOURNAL DE GENEVE STATING THAT SOUTH AFRICA AND CHINA WILL NOT ATTEND. THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION HERE CONFIRMED THIS IN A TELEPHONE INQUIRY, ADDING THAT THE SAG GAVE NO REASONS WHEN IT INSTRUCTED THE MISSION NOT TO PARTICIPATE. THE MISSION OFFICER CONTACTED WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE CHANCES FOR A REVERSAL OF THIS DECISION. USDEL
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OFFICER REITERATED IMPORTANCE TO USG OF PRG ISSUE

AND NEED TO MOVE BEYOND THIS ALREADY DECIDED QUESTION TO SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF CONFERENCE. WITHOUT MAKING COMMITMENT, SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION OFFICER EXPRESSED AGREEMENT.

2. THE REPORT IN REFTEL THAT SWAZILAND HAS ANNOUNCED NON-PARTICIPATION WAS IN ERROR. WHILE THE GVN MISSION HERE BELIEVES SWAZILAND WILL IN FACT NOT ATTEND, NO OFFICIAL WORD THIS EFFECT HAS APPEARED.

3. FURTHER TO THE NEWS THAT CHINA MAY BE ABSENT, WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE GVN MISSION THAT CHINA'S LETTER DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO STAY AWAY ADDED THE PHRASE "UNLESS NOTIFIED OTHERWISE" ("SAUF AVIS CONTRAIRE"), I.E., THE PRC WILL NOT ATTEND UNLESS ITS PERMANENT MISSION IN GENEVA DECLARES OTHERWISE. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THIS LANGUAGE, NEITHER WE NOR THE GVN MISSION CURRENTLY EXPECTS THE CHINESE TO BE ABSENT FOR THE PRG VOTE.
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